

Application No.: 09/633,365

Atty Docket: CMRC 1006-2

REMARKS

Claims 48-69 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

The Examiner has entered rejections under Section 102 based alternatively on Mehr et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,141,658) (Computer System and Method for Managing Sales Information); on Sidhu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,322) (Method and Apparatus for Creating and Assigning Unique Identifiers for Network Entities and Database Items in a Networked Computer System); and on Tenenbaum et al. (Eco System: An Internet Commerce Architecture).

Mehr et al.

The Examiner's rejection based on Mehr et al. repeats a prior objection, with one critical amplification. Replying to the last response, the Examiner now emphasizes that "Mehr discloses 'product knowledge related to products offered for sale by a selling entity.'" (Abstract)." Office Action, ¶6, pp. 9-10. This is the entirety of the Examiner's reply. Looking at the abstract, nothing else in the abstract is closer to the claimed limitation than the passage quoted by the Examiner, so the Examiner must be relying on the brief quoted passage to make an enabling disclosure of the claimed limitation.

First, "product knowledge" does not meet the limitation, "a registry of machine-readable specifications specifying business services offered by trading partners, the machine-readable specifications including at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, services offered and at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, documents to be exchanged with such services by trading partners".

Goods and services are very distinct in every parlance.

Second, the abstract is not enabling of the claimed limitation.

[57]

ABSTRACT

A computer system is used for managing product knowledge related to products offered for sale by a selling entity. The computer system includes a memory arrangement with at least one processing unit being coupled to the memory arrangement. The computing system defines a data model to describe relationships between data categories. A data instance is input to the computer system that corresponds to one or more of the data categories. The data instance represents at least part of the product knowledge. The computer system can also create a user-defined relationship item for the data instance and present the product knowledge to a user of the system in a manner established by the data model and the user-defined relationship. The product knowledge that is presented by the computing system includes information that corresponds to the data instance.

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Third, the detailed limitations of “machine-readable specifications including at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, services offered and at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, documents to be exchanged with such services by trading partners” are nowhere to be found in the abstract.

Again addressing the main part of the Examiner’s rejection (Office Action, ¶ 2.1, p. 2), Mehr et al. describes an interface to a data warehouse. Col. 1, line 59 – col. 2, line 3. The data warehouse appears to be a database that can store processes as database objects (col. 2, line 3), though little description is given of stored processes, other than as import (col. 5, lines 1-6) or export (col. 2, lines 11-28, col. 6, lines 15-26) filters for loading the database or reporting from the database.

Regarding **independent claims 48 and 59**, we do not see in Mehr et al. “a registry of machine-readable specifications specifying business services offered by trading partners, the machine-readable specifications including at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, services offered and at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, documents to be exchanged with such services by trading partners”. None of the passages cited by the Examiner address this limitation. The abstract does not mention business services offered by trading partners.

FIG. 18 is a data hierarchy diagram for information about car parts, about goods. Col. 2, lines 1-10 describe a data warehouse, which is later described as including an object-oriented programming environment (col. 5, lines 29-31). Col. 4, lines 49-63 talks about defining hierarchical relationships between data items. The hierarchical relationship allows expansion of parts of a tree (FIG. 7), much as File Explorer in recent versions of the Windows operating system allow expansion of subdirectories. None of these references addresses the limitation quoted above. We do not see a machine readable specification of services offered or documents to be exchanged when carrying out the services in any of the cited passages.

The cited “Find” function of FIG. 9 does not “provid[e], in response to a request, one or more of the machine-readable specifications from said registry via a communication network to a requesting node”. The Find function is used for searching for an instance (col. 8, lines 50-51), much like the File Explorer “Search” function in recent versions of the Windows operating system or in a word processor string search.

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The antecedent basis for "the machine-readable specifications" is in the first element of claim 48. The result of a FIG. 9 "Find" is not "the machine-readable specification".

For at least these reasons, method claim 48 and device claim 59, and additional claims that depend from them should be allowable over Mehr et al.

Sidhu et al.

Sidhu et al. describes a catalog service, not a catalog of services. In column 7, lines 39-67, Sidhu et al. gives a very concrete example of a PowerShare Catalog Server, "which maintains a shared repository for collaborative information such as employee databases and corporate directories." This is essentially an employee list, regardless of its capability of serving hundreds of thousands of users or to structure a catalog of a company on a geographic basis. An elaborate employee list does not meet the claimed limitations.

Regarding **independent claims 48 and 59**, we do not see in Sidhu et al. "a registry of machine-readable specifications specifying business services offered by trading partners, the machine-readable specifications including at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, services offered and at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, documents to be exchanged with such services by trading partners". None of the passages cited by the Examiner address this limitation. The abstract does not mention business services offered by trading partners. Col. 7, lines 39-67 describe an elaborate employee list, not a repository of machine-readable specifications of services and documents exchanged to carry out the services. We do not see a machine-readable specification of services offered or documents to be exchanged when carrying out the services in either of the cited passages.

Reference to FIGS. 3 and 10, without citation to any explanatory text, again does not meet the limitations. FIG. 3 appears to be a flow chart of setting the identifier for a server from a set of valid identifiers. This has nothing to do with the claimed limitation. FIG. 10 is a picture of machines identified as servers. Those of skill in the art recognize that a server machine is not the same as a service. We do not see a machine-readable specification of services offered or documents to be exchanged when carrying out the services in either of the figures.

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For at least these reasons, method claim 48 and device claim 59, and additional claims that depend from them should be allowable over Sidhu et al.

Tenenbaum and Sriram References

The reference referred to as Tenenbaum really includes one article about CommerceNet's Eco, by Tenenbaum et al. and a side bar article about Lockheed's AIMSNet, by Ram Sriram. The Examiner relies on both articles, quoting from Sriram p. 54 and citing other pages of Tenenbaum's work.

Mixing and matching two articles requires a Section 103 rejection; it is not a proper basis for a Section 102 rejection, except under limited circumstances that do not apply here. See MPEP § 2031.01. The Ram Sriram article entitled "AIMSNet" appears in the same journal as the Tenenbaum et al. article entitled "EcoSystem: An Internet Commerce Architecture", but they are two separate articles about different systems written by different authors. There is no overlap of subject or authorship that would justify treating them as a single article under Section 102. Rejection under Section 102 based on combination of these two references is improper.

Even if the references quoted and cited were combined under Section 103, they do not enable the claimed "registry of machine-readable specifications specifying business services offered by trading partners, the machine-readable specifications including at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, services offered and at least one of definitions of, and references to definitions of, documents to be exchanged with such services by trading partners". The passages cited come up short of the quoted limitation. The figures 2, 3 and 4 relied on all appear to tie to CORBA IDL, a prior art approach that is described and distinguished in this application. The figures themselves are not enabling of the claimed limitation.

If the Examiner thinks that CORBA IDL is a reference worth relying upon, we invite the Examiner to cite the specification or some other reference that includes enough detail to be enabling (and for us to see how it operates at the claimed level of detail.)

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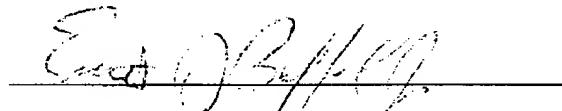
For at least these reasons, no valid rejection under Section 102 can be sustained against the pending claims. Moreover, the claims should be allowable even over a combination of the Sriram and Tenenbaum references.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and thereby solicit acceptance of the claims, in light of these remarks. If the Examiner disagrees and sees amendments that might facilitate allowance of the claims, a call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Should any questions arise, the undersigned can ordinarily be reached at his office at (650) 712-0340 from 8:30 to 5:30 PST, M-F and can be reached at his cell phone (415) 902-6112 most other times.

Respectfully submitted,



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